



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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AUTO DEALERSHIP PARTS MANAGER PLEADS GUILTY TO EBAY THEFT SCHEME

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton announced that 30-year-old Paul Marion Reyes of Midland pleaded guilty this morning in Federal court to interstate transportation of stolen property as a consequence of his perpetration of a multi-month scheme to steal auto parts from his employer and sell them on eBay.

Reyes is the former parts manager of the Saturn of Permian Basin auto dealership in Midland. In his guilty plea before U.S. Magistrate L. Stuart Platt, Reyes admitted that from September 2006 through November 2007, he ordered numerous power upgrade kits for General Motors 2.0 liter engines on behalf of the dealership. Instead of using them in connection with dealership customers seeking such upgrades, Reyes posted the kits on eBay for auction. Ultimately, Reyes sent hundreds of them to winning bidders all over the nation, none of whom knew the kits Reyes sold were stolen. Saturn of Permian Basin suffered an estimated loss of \$49,843 as a consequence of Reyes's scheme.

Reyes faces up to 10 years in prison and a \$250,000 fine when he is sentenced this summer.

The case was investigated by the Midland Police Department in cooperation with officials from eBay. Assistant United States Attorney Kerry Fleck is prosecuting Reyes for the Government.

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